What is claimed is:

1. A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding NOD1, wherein said compound specifically hybridizes with said nucleic acid molecule encoding NOD1 and inhibits the expression of NOD1.

2. The compound of claim 1 which is an antisense oligonucleotide.

3. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has a sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 17, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 45, 46, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63, 65, 66, 68, 71, 72, 79, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87, 88, 90 or 91.

4. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

5. The compound of claim 4 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

6. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

7. The compound of claim 6 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

8. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

9. The compound of claim 8 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

10. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

11. A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length which specifically hybridizes with at least an 8-nucleobase portion of an active site on a nucleic acid molecule encoding NOD1.

12. A composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

13. The composition of claim 12 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

14. The composition of claim 12 wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.

15. A method of inhibiting the expression of NOD1 in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of NOD1 is inhibited.

16. A method of treating an animal having a disease or condition associated with NOD1 comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 1 so that expression of NOD1 is inhibited.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition arises from abberant apoptosis.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is a hyperproliferative disease.

19. The compound of claim 1 targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding NOD1, wherein said compound specifically hybridizes with and differentially inhibits the expression of one of the variants of NOD1 relative to the remaining variants of NOD1.

20. The compound of claim 19 targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding NOD1, wherein said compound hybridizes with and specifically inhibits the expression of a variant of NOD1, wherein said variant is selected from the group consisting of CARD4-L, CARD4-S, CARD4-X, CARD4-Y and CARD4-Z.